in making aloja. The chañar ripens before the other two mentioned above and is a sweetish, round, rather small yellow fruit with a stone, which is eaten either raw or cooked. From this fruit arrope is made, which is good tasting and has, in local opinion, medicinal qualities for the treatment of coughs and asthma. The chañar tree, while it is young, has leaves and trunk similar to the tamarind; the branches look like those of the eucalyptus. 824

Shortly after the algarrobo pods comes the mistol which is similar to our azufaifo except for this difference: from a mixture of its fruits with algarrobo pod flower, patay is made, and kept in skins and well kneaded. Together with these fruits, sometimes a little earlier, sometimes a little later, all the other fruits ripen -- in the Chaco in the hottest months which are October and December (spring and summer months) and further south, towards Tucumán, in November and February.

Through certain techniques of preservation the Indians are able to prolong the yearly period during which they can feed on this vegetable diet, particularly if the crop has been a good one. The harvest lasts between four and five months and is a time of carnival for the Indians [189]. 251

To preserve the algarrobo pods they build small huts which they place on four posts in order to supply them with proper ventilation and to keep them free of ants and other insects. It is a pleasure to see these little constructions rising above the Indians' huts in the same manner as do our towers. Each camp takes pleasure in having more of these little granaries than do its neighbors. In the same manner do they keep vinal and some roots and fruits which can and should be cooked when dry. 343●

When the aloja is ready, which is usually at eleven in the morning, all the men gather about the yuchan container, seated in the Moorish fashion. Then, with two or three long-handled dry gourds they dip out the liquid and pass it around to each other. Meanwhile they talk about their affairs: about wars, the crops, news, odd bits of scandal, and guffaw at any strange happening or quid pro quo. Thus they continue for three, four or more hours. When the liquor is finished they fall upon the solid matter remaining. The women and children take no part in any of this. 273 [521]

They set a high value on the algarrobo pod. A famous chief, whom the whites called Granadero (Grenadier guard -- Translator) 824